The unjust "suspension a divinis" against the priest Claudio Gatti, which occurred in 1998.

On December 6, 1994, the Vicar Cardinal Camillo Ruini, by decree prot. No. 1733/94, prohibited the priest Claudio Gatti from celebrating Holy Mass at the thaumaturgical place in Via delle Benedettine, which had previously been permitted by the former Vicar Cardinal, Ugo Poletti.

The pretext for prohibiting the Holy Mass was the desire to examine the activities of the "Movement Commitment and Testimony" and to study the apparitions of the Mother of the Eucharist.

To this end, Cardinal Ruini established a commission that.org that was supposed to interview witnesses, carry out all necessary verifications, and analyze the numerous hosts that had bled at the thaumaturgical place (with a total of more than 185 Eucharistic miracles).

This verification was entrusted to a commission initially composed of three ecclesiastics: Monsignor Agostino De Angelis, Monsignor Benedetto Tuzia, and the priest Jesús Castellano (letter prot. 144/95 of February 13, 1995); months later, Ruini announced the expansion of the commission to include the priest Roberto Zavalloni and Monsignor Nosiglia (letter prot. 1279/95 of October 30, 1995).

On November 28, 1995, three members of the Commission (Castellano, Tuzia, and Zavalloni), after telling the priest Claudio Gatti that he could not attend, held a single meeting with the seer Marisa Rossi, whom they accused of being "heretical, possessed by the devil, sacrilegious, the one who has divided the Church in two, the one who has fractured ecclesiastical authority in two," and described the books containing the messages from Our Lady as "garbage to be thrown away." Marisa was treated with insults, worse than Saint Bernadette or the little shepherds of Fatima, in

contradiction with canon 1564 of the Code of Canon Law (in Latin: CIC).

No minutes were drawn up of that meeting, in violation of the provisions of canon 1569. Due to the absence of such minutes, on the morning of December 1, 1995, at the Vicariate headquarters, Monsignor Cesare Nosiglia declared that the meeting had been null and void.

Despite these irregularities, on February 24, 1997, decree no. 148/97 was issued stating: "the alleged apparitions of hosts lack any credibility."

The priest Claudio Gatti requested the revocation of decree no. 148/97 because no minutes had been taken of the meeting, in violation of canon 1569 CIC, and because the meeting itself had been declared null on December 1, 1995, by Monsignor Cesare Nosiglia.

By decree no. 415/97 of April 22, 1997, Cardinal Ruini rejected the revocation of decree no. 148/97.

With decree 306/96/Leg of March 13, 1996, Ruini first indicated the possibility of applying canonical penal sanctions, including suspension from the exercise of ministry, along with the prohibition of "performing acts of Eucharistic worship and public worship in general on the occasion or as a consequence of alleged apparitions of hosts."

It was God Himself, who knows the intentions of men, who unmasked His enemies by ordering the priest Claudio Gatti to celebrate Holy Mass, specifying the date of March 8, 1998, the thirty-fifth anniversary of his priestly ordination. "I, Jesus, want Holy Mass here. I, Jesus, want the Eucharist consecrated here by my priest." [Letter from God, February 22, 1998]

In those days, Claudio Gatti, torn between obedience to God and love for the Church, began asking himself several deeply disturbing questions. His suffering grew as March 8 approached.

For years, Claudio Gatti had been unable to answer these questions: "Why does God place me in open contrast with ecclesiastical authority? Why must I, who have always preached obedience and docility, place myself in a situation of open rebellion? Why must I be regarded as someone who breaks the unity of the Church?" Later, God would give him an answer to his questions.

Nevertheless, faced with God's command, Claudio Gatti bowed his head and said: "I am ready for the sacrifice," so certain was he that, because of this obedience to God, men would find a pretext to condemn him.

On February 27, 1998, Claudio Gatti sent a letter to Cardinal Ruini requesting, in the name of the Lord, permission to celebrate Holy Mass on March 8.

The celebration was requested "just this once" and only for the occasion of his priestly anniversary. Claudio Gatti attached to the letter the message from Jesus dated February 22, in which the Lord ordered him to celebrate Mass on March 8.

On March 5, the Vicegerent Monsignor Cesare Nosiglia telephoned Claudio Gatti to inform him of Cardinal Ruini's firm refusal to grant permission to celebrate that single Holy Mass. "The Cardinal has received your letter," Nosiglia explained over the phone, "he does not grant you the faculty to celebrate Holy Mass on March 8 and asks you to obey his directives."

Claudio Gatti replied firmly: "I cannot obey you because I would be disobeying God," and added: "Faced with an order from God, I am even willing to lose my life in order to respect it."

The next day, March 6, without prior notice, at around 5:00 p.m., the Chancellor of the Vicariate, the priest Giuseppe Tonello, arrived at Via delle Benedettine and insisted on seeing Claudio Gatti immediately.

The Chancellor took from his briefcase decree prot. No. 251/98 issued by Cardinal Ruini and read the decree, which threatened suspension a divinis latae sententiae if he celebrated Holy Mass on March 8.

After the reading, Claudio Gatti took the decree, folded it, and placed it on his desk, saying: "Now let this decree rest, because you well know that by challenging it, I am requesting a new decree."

In fact, according to the Code of Canon Law (can. 1734), during the ten days between the notification of the first decree and the notification of the second, the order given is suspended.

It was March 6, and Claudio Gatti had clearly expressed his intention to challenge the decree.

Therefore, the Holy Mass celebrated by Claudio Gatti on March 8 fell outside the prohibition of the decree, because for ten days—that is, from March 6 to March 16, 1998—the decree was suspended.

Thus, an action committed while the decree was suspended was punished. A priest was suspended a divinis simply because he did what every priest should do every day with love: celebrate the Eucharist, the most important act of worship and the one most pleasing to God.

Claudio Gatti then perfected his challenge to the decree within the prescribed 10-day period. Indeed, the appeal, in which he requested revocation of the decree, was sent on March 14 to Cardinal Ruini.

The high prelates also clung to the fact that the priest's letter bore no date, forgetting that the postmark, which clearly showed the date of March 14, attested to it.

Since Claudio Gatti, on March 14, 1998—as proven by the postmark—sent the registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt requesting revocation of decree no. 251/98, consequently, anything that occurred between March 6, 1998 (the date indicated on the decree) and March 16, 1998 (the last useful day for submitting the request for revocation), even if prohibited by the decree, is not punishable, because the execution of the decree is suspended.

Claudio Gatti insisted on the legal aspect of the matter to demonstrate that the suspension a divinis imposed by Cardinal Ruini was invalid, since an action committed while the decree was suspended was punished.

On March 8, 1998, the priest Claudio Gatti, obeying God, celebrated one of the most painful Holy Masses of his life and even wept during the consecration.

The priest did not fear the consequences of his action, but he knew it would be exploited to attack the Marian apparitions "Mother of the Eucharist," the Eucharistic miracles, and to deny their supernatural origin.

On March 21, a messenger from the Vicariate left an envelope at Via delle Benedettine containing a summons for Claudio Gatti to appear at the Vicariate at 1:00 p.m. on April 1. On March 27, the Vicegerent, Monsignor Nosiglia, telephoned Claudio Gatti again to confirm the summons.

On April 1, 1998, Claudio Gatti presented himself at the Vicariate, bringing with him the Eucharist that had bled on March 22, 1998,

which he placed over his heart to find the courage to face "the rapacious wolves clothed as lambs."

Eucharistic miracle of March 22, 1998

He was received and led into a room where Monsignor Nosiglia, the priest Tonello, and the judicial vicar, the priest B. Martinello, were present. He was read the letter (Prot. no. 309/98, March 27, 1998) from Cardinal Ruini—who was not present at the meeting—notifying him of the sanction of suspension a divinis; a letter to which Claudio Gatti would later respond point by point.

Claudio Gatti confided to us that Nosiglia was very tense, while he himself was very calm. Immediately afterward, the minutes were drawn up; Our Lady was beside Claudio Gatti and helped him; the priest corrected the minutes, had them write what he wanted, and practically dictated them himself.

Claudio Gatti then became concerned for Bishop Nosiglia's spiritual state and asked to speak with him alone, knowing full well what the bishop would face for offending God.

At that moment, the priest Tonello and the priest B. Martinello left the room and did not notice that in the anteroom there was a member of the community who had accompanied our priest Claudio Gatti. This person clearly overheard B. Martinello say to Tonello: "The priest Gatti has very clear ideas."

When Claudio Gatti was left alone with Bishop Nosiglia, he said to him: "What are you doing? Before God, the Church, and History, you have assumed grave responsibilities; your conduct will be disavowed, and your decisions will be declared invalid and illegitimate."

In an attempt to help and save Nosiglia, Claudio Gatti advised him: "If you want to save your soul, stay away from Rome, ask for a diocese, flee from Rome."

The priest Claudio Gatti added: "For us, it is a source of pride to suffer now for the Eucharist; soon the triumph of the Eucharist will come about, and it will be our triumph, but what fate will await you?"

Claudio Gatti then took the Eucharist that had bled on March 22, 1998, knelt in deep adoration, hoping that his brother priest would experience a movement of the spirit, a moral impulse, a moment of clarity.

The hope was also that the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist would help shake his conscience and lead him to admit that he was wrong.

At that moment, Nosiglia could decide to stand on God's side or against Him. Claudio Gatti understood that Nosiglia was struggling, and he prayed that he might achieve victory, but fear of Cardinal Ruini proved stronger. So, with a hard look and using strong words, Nosiglia said: "What have you brought me? For us, that is just a piece of bread—throw it away!"

Claudio Gatti later confided that only afterward did he understand that Nosiglia's hard look was not directed at him, but at the one who had put him in that bad situation: Ruini.

A few moments later, the other two priests returned, read the decree, Claudio Gatti signed it, and as he said goodbye to Nosiglia, he told him: "Pray for me—not because I have erred, but so that I may have the strength to accept serenely the wrong and the evil that you have done."

Nosiglia replied: "You pray for me too." Claudio Gatti, raising his eyes to heaven, added: "I hope and desire that we meet on the other side, both of us together."

Bishop Nosiglia, who had accompanied Claudio Gatti to the door of the Vicariate, told him: " Acknowledge that this is not the Eucharist, admit that you have deceived yourself and deceived others, and the suspension a divinis will be lifted immediately."

Claudio Gatti, looking him in the eyes, replied: "I cannot violate my conscience; I must defend the truth. I have seen the Eucharistic miracles and I have believed in them. You have gone against the Gospel and the Code of Canon Law. I will pray for you. I entrust my defense to God, and I will not be disappointed."

Once he left the Vicariate, he went to St. John’s Square, where Marisa, almost all the young people, and numerous adults from the community were waiting for him. They had been notified of his arrival. They had been in adoration in the Basilica of St. John Lateran throughout the entire duration of the meeting.

Our Lady was present both with those who were praying and with Claudio Gatti, who was fighting to defend Jesus in the Eucharist and the truth. Several members of the community, seeing the priest serene and smiling, thought that he had not been condemned and that the meeting had gone well.

Marisa, however, who in bilocation with the Mother of the Eucharist had been beside the priest the whole time, knew how events had unfolded and exclaimed: "No, the meeting did not go well—they have crucified him!"

That same evening, Claudio Gatti found himself in the position of consoling his spiritual children who had followed him from St. John's Square to "Via delle Benedettine," and he told them:

"Dry your tears, let smiles return to your faces, open your hearts to hope, because this is a day of victory and triumph.

Jesus has honored you by allowing you to suffer something for Him, and He has asked Marisa and me to immolate ourselves for Him. Today I feel more a priest, more like Christ, because I too am a victim, and I can say with Jesus that I am priest and victim. The early Christians were asked not to worship Jesus, and for their refusal they were persecuted, scourged, and killed. They shed their blood in a bloody way; we shed it in a bloodless way, loving the Eucharist, for which we are ready to give our lives. Now let us sing 'Come, Mary,' let us invite the Mother of the Eucharist to come among us, and as a sign of victory and joy, I want you to welcome Our Lady by waving your handkerchiefs as if they were flags and banners."

The young people immediately began waving their handkerchiefs in anticipation of the apparition.

The Mother of the Eucharist praised Claudio Gatti's conduct and courage: "Your priest has fought the battle; he has performed an act of great heroism that no priest on Earth would have done."

Our Lady then added: "I understand, my dearly beloved priest, your great suffering, but also your great heroism. You can say: 'I carry the palm of martyrdom.' You have done everything you could, little priest in the eyes of men but great in the eyes of God;

you have loved, you love, you know how to love... your priest has suffered martyrdom."

The Mother of the Eucharist, filling the hearts of those present with joy, then declared:

"You, my dearly beloved priest, are great—very great. That is why God the Father has sent me to tell you: We declare you a saint!"

"This decree is not valid; there is no sincerity in it, nor are all the other decrees true." "You have done everything possible; you even tried to save the Vicar General himself," continued the Heavenly Mother. "Now it is up to him to decide which side he will stand on," and then another maternal caress, still directed to Claudio Gatti: "Be strong, carry the palm of martyrdom, and make your holiness seen and known."

Then Jesus came and said: "God the Father has declared you a saint. God the Father called us one by one and told us: Go to that thaumaturgical place because today God has sanctified the priest Claudio Gatti; afterward it will be Marisa’s turn." (As it happened afterward, on May 2, 1999)

In the following days, the priest Claudio Gatti wrote to Ruini, refuting point by point his entire letter of condemnation. Gatti knew that, from a legal standpoint, the letter from the Vicar General had no validity. He consulted a canon lawyer, an expert in canon law, who stated:

"Look, in the Vatican there is an unwritten law that says the superiors are always right; do not expect anything good for yourself. No Roman Congregation will ever question the bishop’s authority."

Nevertheless, encouraged by Our Lady and also to leave a testimony, Claudio Gatti wrote a letter appealing to the

Congregation for the Clergy, whose prefect was Cardinal Darío Castrillón.

On appeal, the Congregation examined the documents and procedures to see if there were defects or formal flaws or if everything was in order, and it sided with the superior. Cardinal Castrillón, alerted by Ruini, made use of a false testimony and indicated an incorrect date.

The false testimony came from the priest Claudio Cazzola, then pastor of the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who testified that Claudio Gatti had celebrated Holy Mass on March 8, 1997.

In reality, Claudio Gatti celebrated Mass on March 8, 1998—not the previous year—and moreover, Claudio Cazzola was not present at that Eucharistic celebration.

The Congregation for the Clergy used a false testimony and indicated a wrong date. Claudio Gatti wrote to the Congregation for the Clergy pointing out these falsehoods, but no one ever replied to him, despite the fact that his unjust and illegitimate condemnation was evident.

Despite having submitted the appeal regarding the decree prot. No. 251/98, in which Cardinal Ruini threatened Claudio Gatti with suspension a divinis if he celebrated Mass on March 8, 1998, Cardinal Ruini did not take it into consideration, claiming that it had no date—although the postmark clearly certifies the date. Claudio Gatti also replied point by point to the letter prot. No. 309/98, in which Ruini notified him that he had been suspended a divinis for having celebrated Mass on March 8, 1998, yet his situation did not improve.

The most serious matter is that Bishop Nosiglia ordered the priest Claudio Gatti to throw away the Eucharist that had bled on March 22, 1998, and then told Claudio Gatti: “Acknowledge that this is not the Eucharist, admit that you have deceived yourself and

deceived others, and the suspension a divinis will be lifted immediately.”